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MA Defence: “Reading, Writing and Resistance: Feminist and Neoliberal Subjects in the Canadian Academy” By Madison Trusolino

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Our dear colleague, Madison Trusolino, will defend her MA Thesis on Thursday, May 7th, 2015 at Harbour Centre, Room 1425. Here is the abstract of her thesis “Reading, Writing and Resistance: Feminist and Neoliberal Subjects in the Canadian Academy”:

Abstract

Feminism has a short but important history within the Canadian academy, one whose future is put at risk by the increasing corporatization of the university. The goal of this thesis is to investigate the production of female subjectivities in the university by exploring emergent modes of feminist resistance within and against the neoliberalization of the Canadian academy. Against this backdrop, and through analysis of three case studies drawn from the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, my thesis examines and theorizes three pairs of contrasting female subjectivities within the neoliberal academy: the professionalized female academic versus the feminist academic; the entrepreneurial female student versus the indebted student; and the self-securitized woman versus the autonomous woman. Through the investigation of the resistant subjectivities in each of these couplets, I argue that it is integral for feminist movements on campus to combine a critique of patriarchy with a critique of the neoliberal university.

Keywords: Neoliberalism; subjectivities; Canadian universities; feminist resistance; critical discourse analysis; corporatization